

floured cookie cutter. Bake on unbuttered cookie sheets. Bake 6-8 minutes. Cool completely on wire racks; decorate as desired.

#### GINGERBREAD PEOPLE

1 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon ginger  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1 teaspoon cloves  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dark corn syrup  
1 cup (2 sticks) butter  
4 cups all-purpose flour  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
colored icing

Combine first six ingredients in small saucepan. Bring to boiling, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; pour over butter in large mixer bowl. Stir until butter melts; cool to lukewarm. Combine next three ingredients. Add to butter mixture; mix well. Cover, refrigerate dough overnight.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll dough on lightly-floured surface to  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thickness. Cut with floured gingerbread people cutters. Bake on unbuttered cookie sheets 12-15 minutes or until golden. Cool completely on wire racks; decorate with icing as desired.

Lewis & Neale Inc. of New York offers this holiday "goodie" gift:

#### SWEET POTATO HOLIDAY BREAD

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup sugar  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon ground allspice  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon ground cloves  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup golden raisins  
1 cup peeled, cooked and mashed sweet potatoes

Two recipes from the leaflet:

#### THE BEST BUTTER COOKIES

2 cups (4 sticks) butter  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract 5 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt

Cream butter in large mixer bowl. Gradually add sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Blend in eggs and vanilla. Combine remaining ingredients. Gradually add to creamed mixture; mix well. Divide dough into 4 equal portions. Mix and shape dough.

For cut outs: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll one-fourth portion of dough on lightly-floured surface to  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes with

ough D... bringing extra warmth to America's kitchens. Callers will receive the "Sweet Treats" leaflet, which contain recipes such as this one:

#### **SNOWBALL COOKIES**

2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 cups finely chopped pecans  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar  
1 cup sweet cream butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
powdered sugar

Heat oven to 325 degrees. In large mixer bowl, combine ingredients except powdered sugar. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until well mixed (3-4 minutes). Shape rounded

Please see **TABLE/D2**

## **ms Family'**

pensive period drama has made only \$9.8 million so far, and its feeble per-screen average indicates its complete collapse is in the wings.

"An American Tail: Fievel Goes West" also performed poorly, bringing in just \$1.6 million in its third week. "Curly Sue" took eighth with proceeds of \$819,107 and "The People Under the Stairs" was ninth with admissions of \$635,910.

"All I Want for Christmas" rounded out the Top 10 with a meagre gross of \$576,926.

would not check the box, but if she ever felt a need to experiment, that they would be there. I stressed to her to always feel that she could come to me before making any decisions that could change her life forever.

I trust my daughter, and your advice was a big help in dealing with a very difficult situation. I realize that I have a long way to go in completing the journey through her teen years, but I feel that we, as a family, will survive.

I am truly grateful, Abby. Thank you. — **NORTH DAKOTA MOM**

**DEAR MOM:** Every daughter should have a mother like you.